

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAGOS 05253 270715Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 HA-05 /083 W
-----066464 271449Z /64

R 261600Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6143
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 5253

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, NI, PINT
SUBJECT: STUDENT STRIKE: THE MOOD AT UNILAG

REF: LAGOS 5066

1. EMBASSY OFFICER VISITED THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS (UNILAG) CAMPUS ON APRIL 26. THE CAMPUS IS CALM. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY CLOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT, MANY STUDENTS AND FACULTY ARE STILL ON CAMPUS AND UNIVERSITY FACILITIES ARE OPEN. CLASSES, HOWEVER, ARE NOT BEING HELD. ENTRANCE TO THE CAMPUS IS UNIMPEDED; HOWEVER, THERE ARE POLICE PATROLS IN THE AREA AND A LONE POLICE HELICOPTER CIRCLING OVERHEAD. CONVERSATION WITH FACULTY AND STUDENTS COVERED THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. POLICE ACTION: DEEP RESENTMENT WAS EXPRESSED AT THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE THAT POLICE HAD USED IN BREAKING UP THE ABORTIVE APRIL 18 STUDENT MARCH. SEVERAL FACULTY MEMBERS SAID THAT POLICE HAD LATER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LAGOS 05253 270715Z

POUNDED ON THEIR CARS WITH CLUBS. AT LEAST THREE PROFESSORS WERE BEATEN AND THE HEAD OF THE EDUCATION SCHOOL WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY INJURED WHEN HE TRIED TO STOP THE POLICE FROM ATTACKING A STUDENT. ONE NIGERIAN VETERAN OF AMERICAN CAMPUS WARS SAID THAT THE POLICE HAD BEEN STUPID NOT TO ALLOW THE STUDENTS TO MARCH AND BLOW OFF STEAM - INSTEAD OF

PENNING THEM IN THE CAMPUS.

3. STUDENT FEES: SEVERAL FACULTY MEMBERS SAID THAT THE RECENT INCREASE IN STUDENT ROOM AND BOARD FEES MEANS THAT IT WILL COST ABOUT 900-1000 NAIRA PER YEAR TO GO TO UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA. AS A CIVIL SERVANT AT THE LEVEL OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EARNS 8000 NAIRA PER YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION EFFECTIVELY SHUTS OFF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION NOT ONLY TO THE MASS OF NIGERIANS BUT ALSO TO MOST OF THE NEW MIDDLE CLASS.

4. THE WAY OUT: THE GENERAL SENTIMENT WAS THAT THE UNIVERSITY WOULD REOPEN BY JUNE. HOWEVER, EDUCATION COMMISSIONER ALI WOULD HAVE TO GO AND AT LEAST SOME TOKEN CONCESSION ON FEES WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE TO THE STUDENTS.

5. COMMENT: INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, NONE OF THE FACULTY MEMBERS FELT THAT THE STUDENT STRIKE OR SHARIA IS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM NOW FACED BY THE GOVERNMENT (REFTEL). RATHER, THE VIEW WAS VOCALLY EXPRESSED THAT THE 'ECONOMIC CRISIS' WHICH HAS RESULTED FROM THE LATEST FMG BUDGET IS GENERATING A FAR MORE EXPLOSIVE SITUATION. ONE YOUNG FACULTY MEMBER SAID HE BOUGHT A BAG OF RICE THIS MORNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LAGOS 05253 270715Z

FOR 64 NAIRA WHICH BEFORE THE MARCH 31 BUDGET SPEECH SOLD FOR 25 NAIRA. OTHER STAPLES SUCH AS SUGAR HAVE GONE UP 200-300 PERCENT AND MANY ITEMS SUCH AS MEAT ARE SIMPLY UNOBTAINABLE GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT'S BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF CHILLED MEAT. IN THAT REGARD, A YOUNG HISTORIAN SPECULATED THAT THE POLICE HAD PROBABLY BRUTALLY CONFINED THE STUDENT MARCHES TO CAMPUS PRECISELY TO AVOID THE KIND OF SUPPORT THAT STUDENTS RECEIVED FROM MARKET WOMEN IN IBADAN WHEN THEY MARCHED THROUGH THE CITY AND SPARKED WIDER DISORDERS. HE CREDITED POLICE WITH BEING BRUTAL AND SHREWD RATHER THAN BRUTAL AND STUPID. WYMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, UNIVERSITIES, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS05253
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780180-0402
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780416/aaaaamqq.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 12c42fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LAGOS 5066
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2845106
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENT STRIKE: THE MOOD AT UNILAG
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, NI, UNILAG, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/12c42fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014